

Insurance exec donates another prize steer

BY JOYCE BUPP
Staff Correspondent
YORK — A second chapter in the

tales of youth fund-raisers instigated by York insurance executive Art Glatfelter is in the

works.

Two years ago, the York country-boy-made-good wrote Farm Show history when he paid \$12 per pound for the now-famed steer "J.D.," and then turned the beef back to York 4-H and FFA members for fund-raising.

Glatfelter returned to the Farm Show steer auction in January, and purchased "Ratt," the champion heavyweight winner, for \$2 per pound. Exhibitor of the strapping, 1340-pound Chianina-Angus cross was York 4-H'er Joe Druck.

Glatfelter in turn donated "Ratt" to the Agri-Business committee of the York Chamber of Commerce. In conjunction with the York Extension office, co-sponsor of the February 28 Agri-Business seminar at the York Fairgrounds Banquet Hall, the committee has arranged for the steer to be processed and quick-frozen at Godfrey Brothers, York R8. Packages of the beef, each 150-pounds of top-quality steaks, roasts and hamburger, will go before the seminar participants at 11:30 a.m., with York auctioneer Blaine Rentzel fielding the bids.

On hand for the auction will be exhibitor Druck, whose bank account is over \$2500 fatter since

he parted with his project beef.

"This was my best show year, ever," acknowledges the 16-year-old sophomore and varsity wrestler at Dallastown Area High School.

The Phil and Carol Druck family, also raises purebred Simmentals at their York R2 farm, and Joe hopes to continue that interest with his own small herd someday. His 4-H Simmental beef breeding project heifer earned him additional top ribbons this year at Farm Show, taking the junior championship and best breed and owned in the junior breed show, and the reserve championship in open class competition.

"Ratt" wasn't always the sleek,

super-tall, well-muscled steer that caught the judge's eye in the Farm Show arena, according to his young exhibitor.

"He was named for his looks last summer," admits the seven-year 4-H beef show veteran. "Actually, he looked pretty 'ratty' back then."

"Ratt", incidentally, is a half-brother to the noted "J.D.," who earned over \$38,000 in funds for exhibitor Annette Walter and York agriculture youth after his record sale price and follow up fund-raising efforts in 1983.

Both steers were acquired by their 4-h exhibitors through the annual club calf sale, held in November, by the Donald Walters family of Airville.

USDA creates kits to make beekeeping equipment

Beekeeping is an interesting hobby which can be a profitable enterprise especially well suited to small farm operations. The initial cost of hives and equipment can be a drawback, however. The Cooperative Extension Plan Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has plans for hives and equipment which can help keep expenses down.

According to University of Delaware agricultural engineer Dr. Jim Scarborough, one plan (No. 6324) is for a simple low cost hive that can be easily built by anyone familiar with basic woodworking techniques. A single hive can be cut from one 1 x 12-inch and one 1 x 8-inch board, each 10 feet long. The plan shows one brood hive, a super, a base and a cap. For a taller brood hive, Plan 6327 offers two options — a five-frame-deep unit, or a unit with a double row of three frames each.

Although comb honey is marketable, many people prefer honey which has been separated from the wax. A honey uncapping tank and super dumping board can be constructed following directions given in Plan 6325. Details are given for cutting the 30-gallon dumping tank from a sheet of 20-gauge galvanized sheet metal.

"If you want to speed up the separation process, you can uncapp the combs and spin the honey from them, using a handcrank-operated honey extractor," Scarborough says. Plan 6330 shows the detail for a stand and comb holder that holds four combs at a time. The honey passes through an expanded metal screen into a commercially available pail which is large enough to contain the unit.

"This unit requires some welding and other metal work," the specialist says, "but any small metalworking shop can do the work for you at a reasonable cost, if you don't want to tackle it yourself. If you want to collect the beeswax, Plan 6265 shows you how to build a solar beeswax extractor."

Blueprints of these plans are available for 50 cents each, or \$2 for the set of five, by writing: Extension Agricultural Engineer-Plan Service, 058 Townsend Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19717-1303. Make checks payable to University of Delaware.



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